OCI No. 3195/63

29 October 1963

VIETNAMESE SUMMARY SUPPLEMENT (Information as of 1100 EST)

- 1. Madame Nhu and her teenage daughter appear to be emulating a pair of American girls--unpredictable Hurricane Ginny and Annie Oakley.
- 2. Mme. Nhu's entourage announced last night that she has decided to reverse course for another talk in Los Angeles after her speech at the University of California today, and then spend five or six days resting in Southern California. She had been scheduled to leave for Tokyo tonight.
- 3. A spokesman for Mme. Nhu said late last night that she had telephoned Saigon to say her return might be delayed, and had asked friends in Los Angeles to find a "secluded temporary residence" where she could rest five or six days before leaving the country. In Los Angeles, a spokesman for the Young Republican Club said she had agreed to speak under the club's sponsorship in an open meeting Wednesday night.
- 4. Le Thuy, reported for the first time as appearing in Western dress, dined in San Francisco's Chinatown with her young Texas escort and two chaperones, after telling a press conference that she almost passed up the US visit with her mother in order to join one of the strategic hamlets and fight the Viet Cong. (She is a member of the women's paramilitary organization headed by Mme. Nhu.) Asked whether there is any romance between her and Bruce Baxter, Le Thuy told the reporters: "What I really love is shooting guns--pistols, carbines, machineguns, rifles, bazookas, everything."
- 5. Mme. Nhu told the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco yesterday that the Buddhist monks staging the series of suicides represent a splinter group speaking for only a small fraction of the estimated 1,000,000 Buddhists in South Vietnam, and controlling only two of the 4,000 pagodas.

She added that US policy toward the Diem regime is "not usual among allies...It is unfortunate

Approved For Release 2002/01/03: CIA RDP 79 T00429 Δ00148 0070027-6

that the American people can't interfere more in that policy. For Vietnam it is rather confusing."

- 6. Press reports say Mme. Nhu is drawing the largest crowds of reporters, photographers, pickets and policemen assembled for any foreigner visiting San Francisco since Khrushchev was there in 1959. Pickets led by left-wing lawyer Vincent Hallinan have announced they will continue to demonstrate at her hotel and any scheduled appearances until she leaves town
- 7. Madame Nhu last night first canceled and then reinstated her speech at the University of California gymnasium in Berkeley today, attributing the cancellation to police advice. One spokesman, however, said it had been her own decision. A student committee visited her to ask reconsideration, and university officials have warned against demonstrations on campus. A speech scheduled in another San Francisco hotel last night, which would have involved another passage through the picket lines, was canceled.
- 8. Ambassador Stevenson told a press conference in San Francisco yesterday that he did not think Mme. Nhu's tour of the US "will have any bearing or influence on US policy in Vietnam....As a matter of fact, I don't think anybody has paid much attention to her. I've heard more about her in California than I ever did in New York....Despite her contentious remarks about our policies, I believe she should be accorded a courteous reception and hearing."